

Listing of Claims:

1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method of making a catalyst, the method comprising the steps of:

reacting a titanium salt with an alcohol to form a titanium alkoxide; and separately reacting a zirconium salt with an alcohol to form a zirconium alkoxide; followed by

mixing the titanium alkoxide and the zirconium alkoxide in the presence of an organic acid to form an organometallic precursor; followed by

decomposing the organometallic precursor to form a solid solution characterized by a zirconium-titanium oxide; and then

adding a precious metal to the solid solution to form the catalyst.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the solid solution further comprises yttrium and lanthanum.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein forming the organometallic precursor further comprises:

reacting a yttrium salt with an alcohol to form a yttrium alkoxide;

reacting a lanthanum salt with an alcohol to form a lanthanum alkoxide; and

mixing the titanium alkoxide, the zirconium alkoxide, lanthanum alkoxide, and yttrium alkoxide to form the organometallic precursor.

22. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 18, wherein decomposing the organometallic precursor to form a solid solution further comprises adding water to the organometallic precursor.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the organometallic precursor further comprises methacrylic acid.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the organometallic precursor comprises $\text{Zr}_2\text{Ti}_4\text{O}_4[\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3] [\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2]_{10}$.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the organometallic precursor comprises a precious metal precursor.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising heat treating the catalyst to a temperature of greater than or equal to about 700°C.